NOTE:

(i) Category "A" SERVICE AREA: This covers the territorial jurisdiction of the Union of India except specified areas that may be notified to be excluded from time to time.

(ii) Category "B" SERVICE AREA: Any of the 20 Territorial Telecom Circles, four Metro Telephone Districts of Delhi, Mumbai, Calcutta or Chennai and four major telephone districts of Ahmedabad, Bangalore, Hyderabad or Pune are Category 'B' service areas. The four Metro Telephone Districts (Delhi, Mumbai, Calcutta and Chennai) are not part of any Telecom Circles, whereas the four major Telephone Districts (Ahmedabad, Bangalore, Hyderabad and Pune) are part of respective Telecom Circles.

(iii) Category "C" SERVICE AREA: Any Secondary Switching Area (SSA) of DOT with geographical boundaries as on 01-04-1998, will form a separate category "C" Service Area with the exception that each of the four Metro Telephone Districts of Delhi, Mumbai, Calcutta and Chennai and of four major Telephone Districts of Ahmedabad, Bangalore, Hyderabad and Pune of the DOT with geographical boundaries as on 01-04-1998 will form a separate category "B" Service Area.

Rural Direct Exchange Lines Scheme

3839. SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of villages connected under the Rural Direct Exchange Lines (RDEL) scheme, State-wise; and

(b) the financial implications thereof for the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) entered into an agreement with Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL), Reliance Infocomm Limited (RIL), Tata Teleservices Limited (TTL) and Tata Teleservices Limited (Maharashtra) (TTL-MH) in March, 2005 for provision of Rural Direct Exchange Lines (RDELs) on demand in 1685 commercially unviable Short Distance charging Areas (SDCAs). Department of Telecom maintains data for circle-wise installation of RDELs under this scheme. The telecom Circle-wise details of number of RDELs provided as on 31-03-2007 are given in Statement (*See* below).

(b) The financial implications for RDELs connections for the last three years is given below:

(Rs. in crore)

Sl. No.	Financial year	Amount Disbursed for RDELs (Prior to 01-04-2002)	Amount Disbursed for RDELs installed from 01-04-2002 to 31-03-2005	Amount Disbursed for RDELs installedafter 01-04-2005	Total Amount Disbursed
1.	2004-05	1,062.78	114.59	NA	1,177.37
2.	2005-06	0.00	1,393.44	120.1	1,513.54
3.	2006-07	0.00	342.74	872.41	1,215.15
GRAND TOTAL:		1,062.78	1,850.77	992.51	3,906.06

Statement

Circle-wise details of number of RDELs provided as on 31-03-2007

Sl. No.	Service Area	Total number of eligible SDCAs	Total number of RDELs
1.	Andhra Pradesh	117	1,66,427
2.	Assam	26	29,082
3.	Bihar	56	82,215
4.	Jharkhand	66	23,639
5.	Gujarat	120	1,44,722
6.	Haryana	16	74,262
7.	Himachal Pradesh	22	34,621
8.	Jammu and Kashmir	19	11,398
9.	Karnataka	117	2,46,653
10.	Kerala	15	1,06,326
11.	Madhya Pradesh	230	2,38,011
12.	Chhattisgarh	88	19,015
13.	Maharashtra	228	4,33,702
14.	North East-I	27	10,375
15.	North-East-II	50	6,577
16.	Orissa	96	60,821
17.	Punjab	18	1,27,331
18.	Rajasthan	203	3,01,397

1	2	3	4
19.	Tamil Nadu	24	1,31,969
20.	Uttar Pradesh (East)	84	2,12,313
21.	Uttar Pradesh (West)	21	66,004
22.	Uttaranchal	29	14,493
23.	West Bengal	13	23,224
	TOTAL:	1685	25,64,577

Introduction of 'Logistics Post Service'

3840. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Post Offices have introduced a new service called the 'Logistics Post Service";

(b) if so, the details of this service;

(c) whether Government would simultaneously ban private couriers from doing business in this category of service;

(d) if so, whether Government are aware that nearly one lakh people in Hyderabad and nearby towns depend on work in the courier and parcel service sector; and

(f) the steps proposed to study the impact of banning courier and parcel service in private sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) The Department of Posts has introduced "Logistics Post" on 10.8.2004 for transmission of large parcels and consignments between identified stations, with minimum charge for 50 Kgs weight.

(c) Section 4 of the Indian Post Office Act, 1898 bestows exclusive privilege on the Central Government for handling letters with some exceptions. The Logistics Post is not covered under the said exclusive privilege. Accordingly, there is no proposal to ban private couriers from doing business in this category of service.

(d) and (e) Do not arise in view of (c) above.